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FOR AND ABOUT PEOPLE IN THE INDUSTRY

MARCH, 1968

VOLUME 2 NO. 11

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THE COVER

KATHERINE ROSS—Hollywood's brightest young actress in "The Graduate" will star with John Wayne in Universal's "Hell Fighters" now on location in Texas.

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STUDIO TALK

by John Ringo Graham

The first of four film seminars on the historical development of animation will be held on March 8 at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art under the joint sponsorship of the Contract Services Administration, the Motion Picture Screen Cartoonists and the International Association of Animated Film-makers. In addition to the film showings, a panel of animation experts will conduct a question and answer period.

Fred Baum has been named to the newly created post of director of studio publicity for CBS Films, it was announced by William R. O'Hare, director of advertising, publicity and exploitation. Baum assumes his post Feb. 26 and will headquarter at CBS Studio Center. He has resigned his publicity director post at Filmways.

Ed Fouhy has been named CBS News Bureau manager in Los Angeles, it was announced by Gordon Manning, v-p and director of news. James Harden, former Bureau manager, has resigned.

Malcolm Barbour, publicity manager for the past year at the Disney distribution subsidiary, Buena Vista, has been named New York story editor for Walt Disney Productions.

Prior to his joining the Disney organization, Barbour was manager of magazine publicity for 10 years with NBC.

Ralph Andrews has purchased a building in Burbank to house his Ralph Andrews Productions. Company has just sold to Cahuenga Blvd. location.

Krofft Enterprises Inc., new multi-million dollar organization headed by Sid and Marty Krofft in association with the Great Southwest Corp. of Texas, have officially opened their new "show business factory" in North Hollywood. The company will specialize in the conception and manufacture of entire theatrical entities.

Teresa Mary Bendix wed to Lynn Thomas Hobbs on Feb. 10 at Vanowen Baptist Church in North Hollywood. Bride is daughter of actress Lorraine Bendix and granddaughter of the late William Bendix.

Frank Vandermace, former Universal actor and prop man, was feted on his 101st birthday Feb. 2 at the Motion Picture Country House in Woodland Hills. Vandermace, who retired from Universal in 1938 at the age of 71, was first employed at the studio (then known as Nestor Film Co.) in 1912.

Universal will release 35 feature productions in Europe during 1968, the company's heaviest release schedule on the first order of business at a series of three European conferences starting in Paris Feb. 21.



"Forty-seven pages to shoot in three days, and they give me a 'Method' horse!"

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A satisfied customer takes delivery on a finished stagecoach from Davis. Costing \$12,000 each, the coaches are authentic in every detail.

The Last Stagecoach Builder

by Napoleon Boz

When Noland Davis left the special effects department of Universal City Studios a short time ago to take up the century-old art of stagecoach building full time, many of his co-workers thought he was nuts. Now two coaches and \$24,000 later they are having plenty of second thoughts.

While Davis's choice of work is strange to say the least in the space age, it was a natural one because his great grandfather, and his grandfather were both fine stagecoach builders and he is just following in their footsteps.

One is reminded of the village smithy Longfellow wrote about when you visit his shop at Placerville, California. Filled with old tools and hand powered drills, cutting shears and other gear from another era, the shop has an open front and dirt floor. Davis loves Western history and it isn't coincidental that he has part of the overland stage road from Carson City, Nevada to Sacramento running past his front door. "History sort of follows me around," he explains sheepishly.

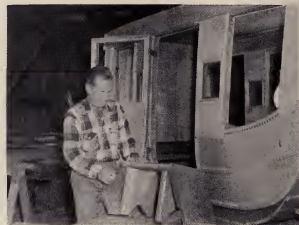
Building a stagecoach even with the aid of some power tools is still no snap since Davis insists on making everything but the carriage bolts himself. It is a

good thing Davis can boast of 52 different trades from cabinet making to sign painting. "I need every one of them when I start working on a new coach," he explained.

When Davis was learning to build coaches at his grandfather's knee, it took



A model of a Concord coach built by Davis over a four month period cost Davis several hundred dollars in materials. "Everything has to work exactly as it does on the real thing," Davis said. Even the tiny brass side light has a candle in it.



Noland Davis checks over a folding seat for a stagecoach interior. Most of his coaches will hold 24 persons — providing some of the passengers don't mind riding on the roof!

the pair a whole year to make a single coach. Now Davis can do one by himself in about four months if he works seven days a week, 25-hours a day.

Davis actually started his present career back in 1939. As a youngster fresh from the hills of North Carolina he built a stagecoach for Walter Wanger's classic film, "Stagecoach." After 27-years the stage still see's regular service with the studio.

Looking back now Davis said recently: "I was sure hoping nothing would go wrong with that stagecoach, I didn't have my grandpa to help me and answer questions but it turned out fine." Since then Davis has turned out 32 other coaches and two chariots for the movie "Ben Hur." "I can make anything with wooden wheels under it," Davis grinned.

This isn't exactly true since he also made a mechanical bat for the tour center at Universal City Studios that flies through air hundreds of times a day to the delight of visitors. Another of his many talents is making engraved spurs, bridles and other Western gear for celebrities like Gene Autry.

In the old days Davis and his grandfather could expect to get \$2800 for a coach or about a \$1 a pound. "Nows," says Davis, "just the materials cost that much." Davis charges \$12,000 for his stagecoaches now — inflation has hit the wagon business too. The high price tag hasn't slowed prospective customers down though. "I get more orders than I can fill," Davis said recently. Right now he is about four orders behind.

Davis won't resort to production methods to speed things up though, "I just can't make things cheap or take shortcuts that might not be authentic," Davis pointed out patting the side of his latest creation. Davis insists on touches like a real strong box with an old fashioned lock go with his stages. Naturally he makes both the coach strong box and lock himself.

Each of the four wheels needed for a coach take one week to make, but when they are finished each one is a perfect match for size and shape. "If there was even ¼ inch difference between the diameter of one wheel and another the coach would weave and run crooked at high speeds," Davis said. "The studios buy my stages because they can even be pulled by trucks instead of horses up to 25 miles an hour and not hurt them. Try that with wheels that don't match — you'll wind up in the ditch or the hospital — or both!

Davis gets special wood from all over the U.S. for the parts of his coach. Oak from Tennessee, elm from Vermont, hickory from the Carolina's and redwood from California. Hickory is used in the spokes and rims, elm in the hubs, birch on the sides of the body and redwood in the floor boards. "It has to be right or I won't use it," Davis said firmly.

Davis uses 500 pounds of hand forged iron in his coaches, and over \$400 worth of leather. "That doesn't count the upholstery, paint, and brass hardware I use," Davis estimated. According to Davis the same methods he uses in his shop were standard operating procedures 150-years ago. He even has the original blue prints given his grandfather by Abbott and Downing, the investors of the famed Concord stagecoach makers from Concord, New Hampshire. A copy of the



Davis installs some of the rich leather trim he puts on each stagecoach he builds. The leather in each coach costs \$400.



Davis forges out the tire rims he uses in building his coaches by hand the same way it was done over 150-years ago. He is probably the only man alive who knows the ancient art of wheelwrights and wagon makers.



blue prints also exists in the Smithsonian Institute files.

A coach built by his grandfather can still be seen in the showroom of Wells Fargo Bank in San Francisco. "My stages will probably last longer than his did," Davis predicted, "because I use better glue, paint and sealers than he was able to get." One thing is certain, anyone buying a Noland Davis stagecoach won't have to worry about it lasting the 200-years Davis predicts, no one is going to live 200-years to find out!

Davis is also one of the few small businessmen in America who won't be put out of work by the space age. "They haven't found a way to computerize my work," he quipped. The last stagecoach builder in America is proof positive that "old special effects men never die — nor do they fade away." Instead they build stagecoaches and watch the world beat a path to their door

THE END

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Ken Earnest - Dramatic Coach For Alligator Actors



MEET THE MAN who owns OVER 1,000 reptiles. Curator
Ken Earnest of the California Alligator Farm.

by Jim Stewart

That old TV favorite, "What's My Line?" missed a good subject in Ken Earnest, who runs the California Alligator Farm in Buena Park, California. When the occasion arises, he also trains reptiles for work in motion pictures.

As curator of the two-acre attraction, Earnest maintains on display more than 1,000 alligators, assorted snakes, crocodiles and turtles. The farm greets more than 200,000 tourists each year.

Ken's most recent motion picture assignment came from Walt Disney Productions, which put out a casting call for twelve alligator actors to appear as house pets in the musical comedy, "The Happiest Millionaire."

"Actually, it's impossible to train an alligator" says Ken. "Reptiles, being cold blooded, generate no nervous energy, and thus, they'll move only when they absolutely have to."

"Since they eat only once a week, you can't teach them anything by the reward system. Basically, getting an alligator to perform is a matter of luck."

Continues Earnest, "Since they're orn-

ery creatures, we have the best luck by using reverse psychology. If you want one to walk forward just grab him by the tail and try to pull him backward."

The Earnest family, who brought the farm's original inhabitants to California from Arkansas in 1906, has been supplying reptiles for motion picture work ever since theddays of silent films like "The Perils of Pauline."

Ken has wrestled with alligators for TV and theatrical productions, and in 1960, became one of the only people in world to survive a bite from the deadly tiger snake.

When his reptiles are used in films, Earnest serves as technical advisor. For "The Happiest Millionaire," he worked closely with stars Fred MacMurray, Tommy Steele, Greer Garson and Geraldine Page, as well as newcomers Lesley Ann Warren and John Davidson.

It was in the Florida Everglades that Anthony J. Drexel Biddle, on whose biography "Millionaire" is based, captured twelve alligators, and became so enamored with them that he took the reptiles

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TRAINER KEN EARNEST gives George a bath prior to working on the "Millionaire" set.

home to Philadelphia as house pets.

Says Earnest, "The most challenging assignment in the entire picture was for us to find a way for Tommy Steele to dance with an 8-foot, 200-pound gator named Lumphead. (Out of courtesy, we changed the reptiles stage name to George.)

"The greatest danger to Steele was getting his legs near the alligator's head or tail," continues Ken. "The head is all bone, as solid as a block of concrete and can break a man's legs. The tail can easily knock a man down."

By placing a rope around the gator's head, just behind its eyes, Earnest and choreographer Marc Breaux were able to devise a way for Steele to dance and safely steer the animal at the same time, thereby completing what will certainly become one of the screen's classic dances.



GREER GARSON wasn't sold on the idea of holding a gator at first, but with a little friendly persuasion from trainer Ken, she finally grasped the situation like a trooper.

Ice Capades Chalet Opens In Laurel Plaza

The Ice Capades Chalet has opened in beautiful new Laurel Plaza Center, located at Laurel Canyon Blvd. and Oxnard St., North Hollywood.

Created to accommodate 1000 skaters on an ice surface of 75 x 170 feet, the Arena will operate every day of the year from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m., according to George Eby, Ice Capades president.

This new indoor facility will also be available for private parties, charter service and special events from 6 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m.

A figure skating club, junior hockey program, speed skating and other attractions reportedly will be supervised by one of the finest professional staffs assembled in Southern California.

Five kitchens offer Italian, American, Mexican, Continental and seafood, along with a pastry counter. The dining and bar area seating 310 persons provides a panoramic view of the rink.

A snack bar with fireplace is also expected to become a rendezvous for professional skaters and those interested in snow sports.

"The Chalet will serve as a prototype for similar additional facilities in metropolitan shopping centers," states Michael Blake, general manager of this Chalet, and the one currently operating at Topanga Plaza.

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LITTLE NOTES FROM A BIG LOT

By Nicky Hamilton



Actress Joan Staley, former Universal City Mayor and wife of MCA-TV executive Dale Sheets.

SUCCESS STORY . . . Beautiful 1966 Universal City Mayor and widely-traveled actress Joan Staley is the daughter of an ex-Army Chaplain father and missionary parents. She started her career in the industry as a secretary soon to be discovered and starring in such features as "Gunpoint" with Audie Murphy and in "The Ghost and Mr. Chicken" opposite Don Knotts. Joan also appeared in the "Broadside" TV series and most recently in episodes of "Ironside" and "Mission Impossible". In private life, she is the wife of Dale Sheets, a MCA-TV vice-president and the mother of a lovely 9-year-old daughter, Sherye (incidentally, the Sheets are expecting the stork's visit in late July). Though her home now comes first, the former Mayor plans to pursue her career as an actress, also allowing some time for her passion for horses and with stable adjoining the Sheets' home, this should not be too difficult. The versatile young star may be recalled by her gracious ways and friendly manner.

COMMISSARY TALK

RETIRING . . . Last February 23rd, Walter Sitte, Universal Chef, left our employ after more than twenty years of service with the Commissary. The "free man" plans to travel with his wife to his native Germany, relax for awhile and do the things he has always wanted to but never had time for. Who could ask for more?

LEAVING US . . . after 4½ years of employment in Personnel is Katherine "Kitty" Farren who has decided to make her home in the East. Also, Barbara Lynch, sec'y to Bill Hickey, after taking several months off to devote time to her young son Michael John, born August 29, 1967 (a day after Barbara stopped working) and upon her return to work just a month ago. She realized that both undertakings were more than this little girl could handle and preferred to devote herself well to the more humane task of homemaker.

RETURNING . . . in early April after removal of a gall-stone will be Conny Parrot who is presently recuperating. After this convalescence period, she will be back behind the counter to greet you once more. Fred Servoss, as well, who was operated on a n d, according to doctor's instructions, should be rejoining us in late March.

Our very own versatile emissary, Lucille Okana of Studio Personnel, was elected to serve as this year's vice chairman of the Valley "Employ the Handicapped Committee." This honorable title goes hand-in-hand with a most worthy cause and the organization's slogan "Ability, Not Disability Counts!" is very a propos. Certainly, even here at Universal, many a handicapped carried out as good a job as his more fortunate fellow co-worker. Apart from her more important duties as Universal's Personnel Interviewer, Miss Okana is the mother of two sons in the Marine Corps and, therefore, also an active member of MOMS (Valley's Mother of Marines).



Lucille Okana, Studio Personnel Interviewer and Vice Chairman of Valley's "Employ the Handicapped Committee."

VISITING . . . her friends recently to acquaint them with her chubby new healthy daughter Karen Leslie (a vigorous little thing weighing over ten lbs. at birth) was Barbara Collier, Attorney Art Smith's previous girl. The pretty and precocious baby was the delight of all who set eyes upon her.



Preview of "Hotel of the Stars" presently under construction at Universal City and scheduled to be inaugurated by the end of the year.

HOTEL OF THE STARS . . the first of three Universal-Sheratons, to be completed this coming December, will contain close to 500 rooms with the total ensuing three-hotel complex construction planned totaling 1500-1800 accommodations. The towering 21-story edifice will boast of a complete panorama of the Valley from its skyroom dining-dancing area. There will be 16 floors designed for overnight guests, the top two of which will possess luxuriously furnished suites of several bedrooms with accompanying dining and sitting rooms. The first of its kind to be constructed in the San Fernando Valley, the site is at the crossroads of Hollywood, Burbank, the Valley & Glendale and at the intersection of numerous freeways. This initial hotel will provide rooms for banquets, sales conventions, meetings, various cocktail lounges and coffee shops. Specialty restaurants invaried atmosphere settings will be included as well as a beautiful modern-shaped pool in the vicinity of the lobby and cocktail lounges. Outdoor dining and adjoining swim-area is envisaged. Future plans will eventually include other facilities such as apartment houses, recreational activity centers and stores. A total of \$13,000,000 has been invested in the original hotel alone which is but the start of this great film-center-of-the-world.

Little Notes From A Big Lot

BACK LOT REVISITED . . . Due to substantial damage caused by last May 15th's fire, amounting to \$3,000,000 and wiping out practically all of European and most of Denver Street, a complete renovation of this area is presently under construction, due to be ready sometime this March. Alex Golitzen is in charge of the large-scale operation along with assistants Bill De Cines and Ed Elliott. This new project will cost approximately \$2,000,000 and will be of a more modern nature, with typical winding European paths still predominating, nevertheless. The site of old Europe, overlooking Lakeside Golf Course, will be moved toward the hills so as to hide the mountains. The locales will easily be turned into any major Continental city such as Paris, Rome, Vienna or even Mexico City as the need requires. Interior settings will be provided on instant demand. For instance, a French bistro may be equipped with the appropriate inside adornment only to be replaced rapidly by a Mexico City bookstore with all pertinent accessories. Such a scene calls for when Rosalind Russell enacts a part of her role in the soon-to-be-commenced movie "The Unexpected Mrs. Pollifax". Denver Street and the Tower of London will undergo considerable transformation as well. New York Street, though untouched by the fire, will eventually be remodeled at a cost of approximately \$1 million and will have facets similar to those of its European counterpart in that an Eastern domestic metropolis can overnight become Los Angeles, San Francisco, Chicago or what have you without much ado. Construction is under the supervision of Virgil Summers and work is being done entirely by the studio. Naturally, everything will be "fireproof".

BACK IN SHAPE . . . after a long siege of illnesses which accounted for a year's absence from the studio is Ray Smith of the Mail Room (in charge of address plates). Ray was operated for a back injury a year ago February and, while recuperating, was hit by a Yellow Cab which set him back another three months, only to be contaminated with infectious hepatitis and having to spend some time in the Motion Picture Home. After a period of convalescence, he is now back on the lot since early February. Following such a long streak of bad luck, let's hope there are only good things in store for our arduous colleague.

BRIDAL SHOWER . . . A shower for Nancy Marcellino of Foreign Publicity, wed to Make-Up Assistant Rich Sharp on February 17th, was given last month at

the home of Casting's charming Frances Bascom. Reaven Barnes, formerly of Domestic Publicity, now a housewife and mother, assisted in the dinner arrangements. Over twenty co-workers and friends attended as well as several close relatives of the bride-elect. A succulent Italian dinner was served upon which gifts were opened by the fiancée which proved to be an array of essentials for setting up housekeeping, much to her delight. It was a pleasant evening spent in a most warm and cozy atmosphere.

RECENT ACQUISITIONS . . . from our Chicago MCA - TV Office are friendly Ernest Goodman, Attorney in charge of Television Syndication, Lawyer Larry Spungin, Danny Silver, Shipping Coordinator, Nettie Solomon of Scheduling and Ernie's own sec'y from Illinois, Ursell Chisum who has put in over eight years with the company so far. Goodman's headquarters, with additional local member Eloise Marshall, are in the Tower

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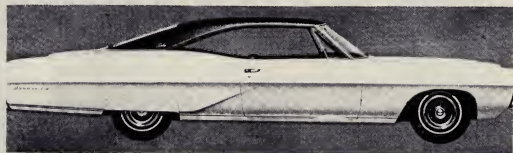


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SOCIAL EVENT — In memory of Nat King Cole, proceeds of annual Beau Belle Bal were donated to California Institute for Cancer Research, UCLA Center for Health Sciences. At party in Embassy Room of Coconut Grove, Mrs. Cole was guest of honor. Mrs. Cole is flanked by actor Joe Campanella, left, dancer-director Gene Nelson, right, and Mrs. Cliff Thorsness of Sherman Oaks, a member of Valley Committee CICR.



HE MC'd — Highlight of evening was when Danny Thomas delivered special tribute to late Nat King Cole. He also gave humorous commentary on foibles of today's youth.

BEAU BELLE BAL



CELEBRITIES ATTEND — Film stars turned out in great number for Beau Belle Bal and just before Earle Hagen's orchestra played first number, Walt Disney actress Annette Funicello paused for photographer. She is shown with KNX radio personality Dennis Bracken, left, her husband, Jack Gilardi and Cliff Thorsness. The Gilardis reside in Encino.

solle ayres photo

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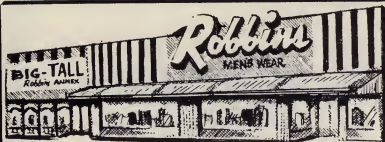


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L ETTERS.

I'm usually able to get to Studio Magazine before Sparky and Mr. Levy come in the office — I really enjoy it!

I just had to write and thank you for a very interesting article on Sidney Poirier in your latest issue. He's my favorite actor — and Joan Schmitt's article was great — please thank her for me.

Again . . . I enjoy "Studio" very much.

Sincerely,
Patty Andres
Secretary

On behalf of the DeCinces family I would like to thank you for the outstanding tribute to the memory of Dominic which was published in the January issue.

I would also like to thank his many friends on the Universal City lot for their sympathy cards and contributions to the Cancer and Heart Fund.

Sincerely,
Mabel DeCinces

Three Named To Disney's Art Institute

Roy E. Disney and Ronald Miller, producers at Walt Disney, and Herbert S. Hazeltine Jr. have been named to the board of trustees of California Institute of the Arts.

The Institute, first planned by Walt Disney, is presently programming a new campus at Valencia, Calif., to set up college level schools of art, music, design, film, television and theatre.

Miller, whose wife is Walt Disney's daughter, is a producer of features and TV. Roy E. Disney is the son of Roy O. Disney, president and chairman of the board. Hazeltine is partner in the law firm of Adams, Duque & Hazeltine.

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OBITUARIES

ART COBLE

Services were held yesterday at Wee Kirk of the Heather at Forest Lawn for Art Coble, 70, who until his retirement five years ago headed the title department at Hanna-Barbera Productions.

Coble was for 20 years at MGM before joining Hanna-Barbera in 1957. Five years later he was the first employee to retire from the studio.

Coble is survived by his wife, Beryl.



by Gabe Esler

On the outskirts of Hollywood, the police force of professional musicians in the country, there is a band that meets only once a month with regular regularity. The band members come from all areas of the musical field: recording stars, college and high school music teachers, a troubadour and bassist, a player from the L.A. Philharmonic and an outstanding member of the Star Line 1000 Club. Others like the Lawrence Well Orchestra and the Los Angeles Symphony.

When assembled, they serve as a many duty police unit as well as play for ceremonial events, provide the zone command. As a group, they play without with the same old 12 members. At times, they are called to a dance band of their caliber in the case of a party.

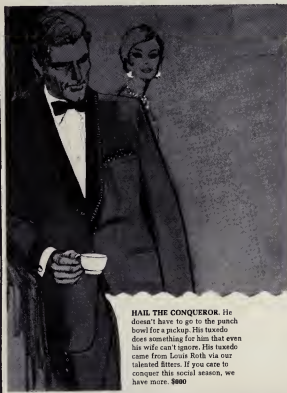
AIR FORCE CAPTAIN ROBERT F. HUGHES, a member of the band, is shown in the foreground, holding a mace. The band is shown in the background, playing brass instruments.



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Arthur Wong



Cheryl Fleck



Albert J. Dilermia

All North Hollywood is agog with pros and cons regarding the changing of the name of the long-known Lankershim Boulevard. This would be the first step to up-date and improve the image of North Hollywood, according to the Chamber of Commerce. The committee headed by Eddie Holohan and Arthur Wong canvassed property owners and businessmen in this area to determine their attitude towards this "drastic" move. The old-timers and some new-timers question the change as they feel the community would lose its identity. However, the cry on the other side is, "Let's get North Hollywood's face lifted and get on with it. We want a new look and booming business."

Clete Roberts, popular TV newscaster and war correspondent, did a bang-up job as master of ceremonies at the 54th annual Installation Banquet of new officers for the North Hollywood Chamber of Commerce at Sportsmen's Lodge. Supervisor Warren Dorn installed the new slate as more than 400 members and friends of the Chamber paid tribute to outgoing President Eddie Holohan and welcomed Albert J. Dilermia, who will head the Chamber's activities for 1968. During the impressive ceremonies many honors were given Holohan as he completed a third-term stint as Chamber president. Arthur Wong, genial local restaurateur was made Honorary Mayor of North Hollywood, replacing actress Yvonne DeCarlo. His first official duty was to crown Cheryl Fleck, Miss North Hollywood 1967, to serve in the same office for 1968 because, he said, "We couldn't find a prettier girl!"

● Why traipse all the way over to Hollywood to see movie or television actors. You can stay right in your own backyard and see them at Ben Carco's Bonanza Rambler agency on Lankershim Blvd. For instance, he has made deliveries to his steady customers Andy Griffith, Don Knotts, Robert Culp, Bill Dana, Bill Cosby, Chuck Connors, Larry Hovis of "Hogan's Heroes", Curly Joe of the "Three Stooges", top writers for the Dean Martin and Rowan and Martin's shows, Universal Studios VIPs and technicians and many others. Ben, who with his attractive wife, Maxine, live in Toluca Lake, is a very civic-minded citizen. He sponsors a hot-rod club in North Holly-

wood for young boys who perform drag races. And he is the man who could do it, too, because during the International Drag Races contest in Pomona, Ben, driving a Rebel, won a trophy, which is a record in itself, said Maxine. Carco is the President of the North Hollywood Automobile Dealers Association and the group is preparing their annual auto show to be held March 15 and 16 at the Thrifmart parking lot in North Hollywood between Victory and Oxnard Boulevards on Lankershim.

● "About Face" is the command of Tom Gigante who is in the glamour business of making the housewife and career gal as attractive as the film beauties in his "About Face" salon just opened in Sherman Oaks. Tom, or U. Thomas Gigante to give him his full name, was formerly with Universal City Studios as a make-up artist in the Cinematique Glamour Pavilion and served in the same capacity for Warner Bros. and M.G.M. He decided that his own salon would give him the opportunity to share his vast experience by teaching the average woman who wants to improve her looks. Under his expert guidance she will be able to apply her individual type of beauty preparations with ease and in the comfort of her home. She will then attain the same professional status as the fem movie personalities achieve who are always under the skillful hands of trained make-up men. His teaching technique includes make-up and how to use cosmetics to enhance the natural beauty of women. Whether you are the "average girl or woman" and want to change your face ... we say, "About Face".

● Had an informative chat with Sherwood Price, who with Robert Vaughn, the "Man from U.N.C.L.E." have formed Ferdporque Productions. They recently returned from a European location scouting trip for a motion picture starring Vaughn. Sherwood is no mean actor himself and these two thespians, residents of Studio City, are planning big things for their company. They have taken options on several film properties and as soon as the mechanics are ironed out they will be ready to start shooting. More later.



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COMPOSER-CONDUCTOR Robert F. Brunner is seen during a scoring session for Walt Disney's "Blackbeard's Ghost," a supernatural comedy that stars Peter Ustinov, Dean Jones and Suzanne Pleshette.

THE MOST UNUSUAL BAND IN HOLLYWOOD

Continued from Page 15

In the past they've played at Disneyland, U.C.L.A., U.S.C., Busch Gardens, Hollywood Bowl, the Pomona Fair, Disney Studios, in Alaska, Chamber of Com-

merce parades, Memorial Day parades and civic auditoriums. This summer they might be going to Japan or Germany on a good-will tour. And their salaries average out to about 11 cents an hour.

They are the 562nd Air Force Band based at the 146th Airlift Wing of the California Air National Guard in Van Nuys. Their commander, Robert F. Brunner, a gifted young composer who recently completed scoring the new Disney comedy, "Blackbeard's Ghost," is now in his eighth year as leader of the group. Captain Brunner's professional attitude in dealing with the band is largely responsible for its success. While retaining the dignity of his military rank, he treats band members as artists rather than lower grade military personnel.

When recruiting members, Captain Brunner holds auditions, as he did during the thirteen years when he had his own band. An indication of the prestige and high morale the 562nd enjoys is indicated by a waiting list of at least 40 top names, the many trophies the band has won in competition, and the California Medal of Achievement presented to Brunner.

Applying another of his professional skills in service to his country, Brunner recently supervised the background music for a new 30-minute film called "When the Chips Are Down," produced in color by the National Guard Bureau in Washington. For the film the 562nd Band recorded "I Am the Guard," a song by Arthur Fields which plays over the end titles. This film, for release in 1968 to the general public, is aimed at building a better understanding of the Guard's duties.

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BERNIE HAMILTON: AN UNUSUAL COWBOY



NEWCOMER — When Henry Fonda arrives in a small western town he gets directions to the nearest bar from cowboy Bernie Hamilton in this scene from "Stranger On The Run," airing Oct. 31st on NBC-TV.

by John Russwurm

Who ever heard of a Negro cowboy?

A decade ago this would have been a valid question, but thanks to a brilliant book by two USC professors titled "The Negro Cowboys" and its widespread publicity in both the white and Negro press, the long-buried facts regarding the black man's part in the settling of the West are finally receiving national prominence.

It isn't surprising, then, that we've seen a rash of black cowboys portrayed on our television and movie screens.

Sidney Poitier played a fancy-Dan, gambling cowboy in "Duel At Diablo." Don Mitchell recently appeared on "The Virginian" as a member of an outlaw gang. Sammy Davis, Jr., is reportedly one of the fastest guns in show business.

And now, on Oct. 31st, Bernie Hamilton (brother of jazz great Chico Hamilton) has been teamed with Henry Fonda and Sal Mineo as a good cowboy who happens to be on the wrong side of the law in "Stranger On The Run."

"It's still a little surprising," Bernie admits, "seeing a black face behind a heavy, western drawl or chewing lazily on a chunk of tobacco, but that's only because we're still getting used to the idea.

"The simple truth of the matter is that there were black men in America's Southwest as early as the 16th century. Estavenco was mapping the area for the Spanish before white settlers even thought of Jamestown.

"Later, while black slaves tended cot-

ton fields in the South, Negroes were branding cattle, robbing banks, staging main street shootouts and breaking wild broncos in the West."

The fact that Bernie dons spurs, saddle and holster is even less surprising after taking even the briefest look at his pot-pourri background. He's been a stage manager, electrician, house manager, set designer, janitor, gas station attendant and cement mixer.

He even owned two art galleries — one in Los Angeles, the other in Beverly Hills. In addition, for the past eleven years he's operated a Christmas tree lot on Sunset Blvd. in Hollywood.

An unusual background for a cowboy.

As an actor, however, his first speaking part was in "The Jackie Robinson Story" and he has since appeared on television in "Alfred Hitchcock Presents," "G. E. Theatre," "Ben Casey," "Chrysler Theatre," "The Dick Van Dyke Show" and many other shows.

On the big screen he's been seen in films with everyone from Spencer Tracy and Gary Cooper to Frank Sinatra and Sammy Davis, Jr. His most recent success was a starring role in "One Potato, Two Potato," the moving story of an interracial marriage.

"But the part in 'Stranger On The Run' is different from other roles I've played," says Bernie, "and not just because I'm cast as a cowboy. Most characters are either good or bad; they're either for the law or against it.

"However, this time the law is wrong; they're hounding an innocent man (Fonda), whom their leader knows, or at least suspects, is innocent. As Fonda's friend, I'm placed in opposition to the law, yet I still come off as a 'good guy'.

"Not that I'm that keen on playing 'good guy' roles. After all, if we're going to be honest we'd have to admit it's the meanest crook in a movie who's often remembered by audiences. Also, the heavy's role usually has more dimension and room for dramatic expression than the hero's.

"And come to think of it, going out in a blazing gun battle is better than riding off into the sunset any day."

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Music Links Viewers with Cartoon Thrills



MUSIC MAKER — Ted Nichols directs Hanna-Barbera's music department, writes and conducts all cartoons' themes and scores.

by
Pat Weems

Musical scores and themes for Hanna-Barbera's seven new TV series are the vital ingredients which not only establish atmosphere, but which build that important link between viewers and cartoons during heightened action scenes.

The man at Hanna-Barbera responsible for creating this "music to respond by" is Ted Nichols, studio music director for the last three years.

A dissertation away from his Ph.D. in music, Nichols is also a professor of music for Cal State at Los Angeles. In addition to teaching, he is in charge of the college's Varsity (65 member football drill band) and Stage (small jazz and entertainment band) Bands.

At Hanna-Barbera, Nichols is his own arranger and conductor. Before he begins composing musical scores, he carefully studies the art work from each cartoon series.

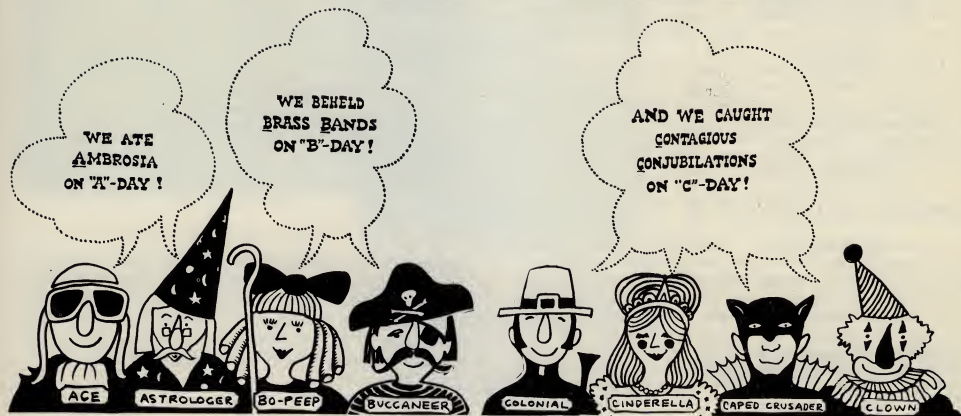
It is here that he gains insight to character development, storylines, settings, humor and the general strength of the cartoon heroes.

While preparing themes and scores, he constantly is aware of the dynamics of contemporary cartoon music. With the trend to super heroes and space travel, cartoon music must reflect 007 and outerspace sounds.

With 12 scoring sessions completed since last March, Nichols estimates a 60% increase in sessions this season over the 32 he conducted for last year's three new network series.

Among the seven series, he has developed special sounds for "Herculeoids" and "Mightor" with the use of the Theremin, a special instrument which gives off eerie-like whines. "This is possibly the first time a Theremin has ever been used for scoring cartoon series," said Nichols.

ALL IS ABSURD AT THE AMAZING ALPHABET EVENTS



By ALAN B. COLLIER

"... and they drew all manner of things - everything that begins with an 'M'..." "Why with an M?" said Alice. "Why not?" said the March Hare.

- Lewis Carroll

Why not indeed! Thus, in honor of Lewis Carroll and the March Hare, nonsensical humor will reign supreme in March when three Sunday afternoon family events will be featured at Devonshire Downs. On Sunday, March 17, absurdity will reign supreme with all beginning with "A" at "The Amusement of A," March 24th blows our way "The Ballyhoo of B," and coming consecutively and climactically - "The Carnival of C" on March 31st. All is being amalgamated and arranged for your family's fun and participation by the Valley Center of Arts; it is a benefit for its new complex of buildings on land given by the city at the corner of Victory and White Oak. The artistic coordination, entertainments, and activities are being handled by Ron and Phyllis Patterson, who created the Renaissance Pleasure Faire and May Market, which has become a traditional annual event in Southern California. The Pattersons enjoy working on events which carry out a particular theme, and have found that people who come in costume to these events enjoy themselves even more.

In the Alphabet Events at Devonshire Downs, they and the hundreds of volunteer participants from the Valley Center of Arts will be providing an environment that is truly unique on

each of these three Sundays in March. Every member of the family will want to be involved in such activities as agglutinating, bluegum bewitchery and circle games. Come as a character beginning with the letter of the day, with your Webster's dictionary in hand or just enjoy it all even without definitions. It's as simple as ABC! Many of the entertainments, activities, food and crafts are being kept as surprises. However, a peek into the exhibition hall at Devonshire Downs might reveal that...

AMUSEMENT OF A

At the Amusement of A and on each following Sunday, Accolades will be Awarded to the letter of the day. All Arrivees Are Asked to Assemble At noon on March 17th for the Anthem of "A" And Afterwards Amaze themselves At Activities And Amusements All Around. All Abilities will be Applicable And All Accroachers Abhorred! Also, Artisans Are Adding to the Atmosphere the Apex in Artistic Accomplishment, from Adornments to Anatomicus.

BALLYHOO OF B

Bargains, Barkers and Billowy Banners Bespeak the Ballyhoo of "B" on March 24th. Balloons will be Bestowed and Both the Brainy and the Blunderers may Banish Blues By Beholding Banjos, Brass Bands, and Blowing Bubbles. Ball games and Block Building will Bestill all Bawling Bairns, and a Bonus will be Brought to Boys who have Birthdays. Besides all that's gone Before: a Bounteous Banquet of Bakemeats and Barbequed Beef with Boston Baked Beans and Bon-Bons and Beakers of Beverage.

CARNIVAL OF C

A Creative Circus of Contests will enCircle Celebrities and Commoners who Come to the Carnival of "C" on March 31st. The Clever Can Compete in Cerebral Calisthenics and Congratulations Can be Counted on for Contriving Conundrums and Creating Curious Cartoons. To Celebrate the Cause of Culture in our Community, Carefree Chaps have Conceived Considerable Creativities: Clowns will Cavort and Contortionists will Convolute Contiguously to the Cacaphony of Crooners, Crashing Cymbals and Consorts Calmly Commencing Choice Concertos. Comestibles for Chewing or Chawing at the Carnival of "C" include Chicken, Cheeses, Cakes, Candies and Continuous Confections. Come Cachinate at "C"!

All who attend the Alphabet Events may purchase advance sale mail order tickets for the prices of \$1.75 for adults and \$.75 for children under 14. At the door, tickets will be \$2.00 for adults and \$1.00 for children. Mail order requests should be addressed to Valley Center of Arts, 5115 White Oak, Encino, California 91316. Please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope. For further information, call 345-5128.

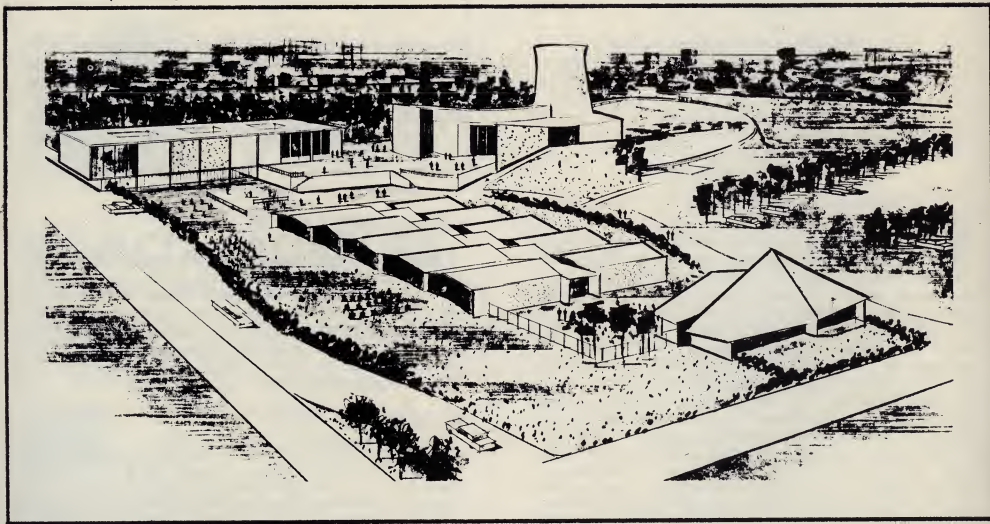
BENEFIT VALLEY CENTER OF ARTS

With the proceeds from these "absurdities," Valley Center of Arts hopes to have a substantial down payment on the "reasonable" future. Experts predict the Valley's population will double in the next ten years, and Valley Center of Arts anticipates serving the San Fernando Valley family's cultural needs in its proposed million-dollar Cultural Center at the corner of White Oak Avenue and Victory Boulevard.

The Valley Center of Arts has, for over eleven years as a non-profit community organization, been offering classes in all the arts to adults, teenagers and children. Their proposed cultural and educational complex will be, when completed, only one part of a major community complex including the Teen Center, Child Guidance Clinic, Swim Stadium and Theasum (Theatre and Museum). □



Building up the Building Fund is a major activity at the Valley Center of Arts these days. Most of the artists who teach at the Center donate a portion of the proceeds from the sale of their works to the Building Fund. Here a sale is being made by Mrs. Jackie Rosenberg, artist and member of the Center's Board of Directors, at the Holiday Sale last December.



Proposed Cultural and Educational Center Complex of the Valley Center of Arts to be situated at the corner of White Oak Ave. and Victory Blvd. in the heart of the San Fernando Valley. Kah, Farrell and Associates, Architectural Planners.

Oh, Valley-"Of Thee I Sing"



POINTED REMARKS — Bud Hafner (right) gestures sharply to indicate choreographic design to his student dancers as they rehearse on campus for "Of Thee I Sing." Downfront dancers are (from left) Jorg Leo Berge of West Los Angeles, Eric Bundy of Sherman Oaks, and Janice Corso of N'Hollywood.



STITCH IN TIME — Engrossed in preparing the enormous wardrobe assignment for "Of Thee I Sing" are (from left) Mike Kessler, who plays the French ambassador, Val Pittz, who plays the tourist, and Margo Chandley, who is the shows wardrobe designer.

They will unwrap The Big One at L. A. Valley College this month — George Gershwin's "Of Thee I Sing", a musical comedy classic that will involve the talents of more than 200 students and the not inconsiderable facilities of the Van Nuys Campus Theatre.

Representing an amalgamation of the student/teacher resources of the college drama and music departments, "Of Thee I Sing" will be presented March 14 - 16, 21 - 23, and 28 - 30 at 8:30 p.m. in the College Theatre, 5800 Fulton Avenue.

The mammoth production is staged by Robert Rivera, associate professor of theatre arts and speech, climaxing his 12 - year tenure with the college drama department, a period which has seen the student enrollment grow from 8 to 1200.

Singing director of the production is Robert Altheuser of Granada Hills. The student orchestra will be conducted by Ted Lynn of Canoga Park. Choreography is by sophomore Bud Hafner of Van Nuys and costumes are by Margo.

With the production of "Of Thee I Sing", the Valley College Drama Department drives another nail into its already secure reputation as one of the nation's outstanding junior college theatres.



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Apparently you are like many other people, only a lot more so . . . drop things when you get thru with them, throw junk at, not in the trash can or barrel.

See you going home with your lunch box, smoking, where I am sure it could be forbidden, and passing by the boards with the nails sticking up, is positive evidence that you DO NOT CARE about yourself or your fellow employees. If you did, you would have put the boards in the can.

I guess it is about time to give you a few reminders about Safety. . . . These are slogans and remarks, and they do help if you'll read and remember, because, Joe, you are your brother's keeper, for when you watch your step, you are watching so that your brother won't stumble either. . . .

Don't Be a Fall Guy . . . Watch Your Step . . . Remember the Fire Extinguishers, Well, Working Men Don't Play Boyish Pranks . . . Safety Is a Job, Work At It, As It Is Constant and Has No Quitting Time . . . If You Do Not Work Safely, You Are Not On the Job . . . Safety Is the Best Investment, It Pays Great Dividends, No Lost Time From Accidents . . . By Being Safety-Minded At All Times, You Will Be the Smartest Thing in Work Clothes . . . Wear Goggles, Because You Don't Want to Think of the Things You Won't Be Able To See, If You Lose Your Eyesight . . . Be Goggle-Wise, Protect Your Eyes, You Can Never Have More Than One Pair . . . If You Keep Working With Care, You Will

Keep Working . . . Don't Be Selfish, Think of Your Family, Because When You Get Hurt, They, Too, Are Hurt . . . Can You Afford to Have An Accident, Check Your Budget, and After You Get the Answer, If Necessary, Change Your Work Attitude. . . .

There are many Dos and Don'ts about how to use this and that, and when to walk and when to run, but none of it that we are gifted with. . . I don't like Don'ts, but here are a few — Don't Kid About Safety, You May Be the Goat . . . Don't Put Someone On The Spot, Wipe It Up . . . Don't Work Yourself to Death, by Accident . . . Don't Learn by Accident, Learn the Hazards . . . Don't Forget the Words of Caution, A Minute for Safety Is Better Than a Month for Recovery . . . Don't Collect Pain for Your Work, Collect Pay . . . Don't Have a Long Time to Remember As You Look at the Stubs of Missing Fingers That, An Off-Guard Minute Can Have An Accident In It. . . .

Looking at the rubbish around the trash can, I am reminded that, FALLS are Public Enemy No. 2, as next to traffic accidents they lead, more than 21,000 last year, deaths, not just hurts. . . .

I believe there is a proverb that recites wisdom about walking safely, think it goes about like this: "Then Shalt Thou Walk In the Way Safely, and Thy Foot Shall Not Stumble. . . ."

Let us all walk upright and safely and as we walk, others will follow. . . .

Well, Joe, there are a lot of words about what not to do, and if you'll read between the lines, you will find a lot of things that you should do. . . .

So, now put out the cigarette, set down your lunch box, and clean up that lousy mess . . . Thanks, Joe. . . .

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MICKEY'S CORNER

CHUCK GRAZZLE

The same highly creative men who fashioned "Mary Poppins" are currently in production with another comedy-fantasy, "The Love Bug," which stars Dean Jones, Michele Lee, Buddy Hackett and David Tomlinson. Producer-writer Bill Walsh, co-writer Don DaGradi, and director Robert Stevenson have once again combined their talents for a wacky story of a has-been race car driver "adopted" by a Volkswagen that happens to be equipped with human intelligence and emotions.

It is the kind of successful box office story producer Walsh has been helping build for years in such films as "The Shaggy Dog," "The Absent-Minded Professor," "Son of Flubber" and "That Darn Cat." The trio's most recent motion picture is "Blackbeard's Ghost," currently in exclusive engagement at the Hollywood Pantages Theatre, and which goes into general release this month.

Congratulations to Steve Pfahler of Editorial upon his marriage to Maria Richards January 27. Steve is the son of Dick Pfahler, Studio Manager.

Jim Stewart has been named Administrative Assistant to Card Walker, Executive Vice President - Operations. Returning to the Studio to assume Stewart's former responsibility as Publicity Director is Tom Jones, who, for the past two years, has been Dick Van Dyke's personal public relations agent. Prior to that Jones was a unit publicist at Disney's.

Kay Mulvey of the Publicity department was guest speaker at the February meeting of P-R Roundtable, a San Fernando Valley Public Relations organization with members representing various PR career fields. With a remarkable number of accomplishments to her credit, Kay is one of Hollywood's top motion picture publicists. She has worked as Society Editor of the Pasadena Post, Publicity Planter for Warner Brothers, Fashion Editor for Columbia, Magazine Editor for MGM, West Coast Editor for Woman's Home Companion, as a partner in Bernie Williams-Kay Mulvey and Associates, Entertainment Editor for Photoplay magazine and as hostess, moderator, writer of her own TV show, "Kay Mulvey's Open House."

Tom Clark has joined the Disney Publicity department after four years with MGM Publicity. His last film assignment for that studio was "The Guns of San Sebastian," which stars Anthony Quinn and was filmed on location in Mexico. Tom will be unit publicist for the upcoming feature, "The Love Bug."

Since directing Walt Disney's comedy, "Never A Dull Moment," which stars Dick Van Dyke, Edward G. Robinson and Dorothy Provine, Jerry Paris has been scoring high both as an actor and director. Next up for him is the second "Dick Van Dyke Comedy Special" due for taping later this month.

Currently, Paris is directing National

General's "How Sweet It Is," and has been asked to join Jerry Lewis in "Hook Line and Sinker" as an actor under Lewis' direction. It's a turnabout for the two since Paris just finished directing Lewis in "Don't Raise the Bridge, Lower the River."

"Never A Dull Moment" is Van Dyke's third and Paris' first Walt Disney assignment. A spoof on gangster movies of a few years ago, it is set for release in July.

Ron Miller has been named Executive Producer for "Walt Disney's Wonderful World of Color" NBC-TV program. He will be responsible for programming decisions on the series, and will coordinate TV production in the fields of 16mm, animation and live action.

Sandi Sweitzer, Burbank's figure skating Olympian, is the daughter of Betty Gossin, Film Librarian at the Studio. Betty accompanied her daughter to Grenoble, France, where the 21-year-old skating champion represented the U. S. in the Pairs Figure Skating competition with Roy Wagelein. Sandi and Roy won the Second National Competitions in Philadelphia, thus qualifying for the Winter Olympics. Miss Sweitzer is a graduate of Burbank High School.

Disney's next big musical, "The One and Only, Genuine, Original Family Band," has been booked in New York's famous Radio City Music Hall for March 21st.

PIRATE IVAN J. WILLIAMS greets Olympic star Jesse Owens at the world premiere of Walt Disney's "Blackbeard's Ghost," which was a benefit event for the United States Olympic Fund.



WALT DISNEY PRODUCTIONS returned to Pacific's Pantages Theatre on Hollywood Blvd. for the second time in less than a year to hold a gale world premiere. In June, "The Happiest Millionaire" opened with a benefit event for the Cal Arts Institute. On February 8, "Blackbeard's Ghost" premiered for the benefit of the United States Olympic Fund.



Boersema Keeps 'Old West' Alive with Paintings, Designs

by Bill Carney

John Boersema, animation department, thinks so highly of the old west that when he was married this month, he scheduled the wedding in Tonopha, Nevada on Friday, which allowed him to explore the nearby ghost town of Jefferson on Saturday and Sunday.

His best man, Jack Parr, also of the animation department, traveled with him and his new bride, Edna, some 7000 feet up a steep canyon to reach Jefferson, a deserted gold mining town.

The trio collected ore, stone hammers and other remnants of the days when gold was dug from the surrounding hills.

Boersema spends most of his weekends near Santa Barbara where he is partner in a resort-type ranch on the San Marcos Pass.

The ranch is decorated with a collection of western-flavored subject that Boersema has painted over the years.

His creations recapture the era of



HEAD GUN AT THE ANNEX—John Boersema is a student of the 'old west' and enjoys capturing western history on canvas and through design.

the "wild west" when Black Bart's stagecoach hold-ups occurred regularly before breakfast and right after lunch.

Special permission was granted to him by the Twenty Mule Team Borax company to paint a canvas of the mule team pulling the heavy wagons of Borax. It now hangs in his ranchhouse.

As a dedicated California historian, Boersema keeps track of where various historical characters robbed stages and boats and blazed trails.

Every spring after the heavy rains are over, he dusts off his metal detector and goes in search of a treasure chest of \$50 gold octagonals that was stolen from a ship in 1881 that was docked in Santa Barbara.

The thief, Charles W. Moore, was captured near Boersema's ranch, but not before he buried the gold. Sent to prison, he later confessed that he had hidden the gold close to a river.

Boersema is determined to uncover those gold octagonals, and for the last four years has made spring trips to that river for that purpose.

This April he is also undertaking a trip into the wilds of Alaska. He will drive up to Anchorage, and then make several side trips thereafter. He estimates the expedition will last three months.

He will hunt with both a rifle and a 16mm camera. He would like to bring back a Kodiak bear, at least on film if not in actuality.

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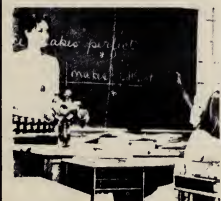
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Hands Across The Sea



RECEIVES GUESTS — Betts Yorty greeted Francis Lederer, Gail Patrick Jackson and Ruta Lee at cocktail soiree for German official. Mr. Lederer is a member of board of directors of Berlin Sister City Committee.



HONOR OFFICIAL — West Berlin's Mayor Klaus Schuetz, right, was honored at a reception in Studio City home of Mayor and Mrs. Sam Yorty. Welcoming visitor are the Rudy Fehrs of Toluca Lake.



COUNCIL OF GUESTS — Mons, Calda-gues reflects the French appreciation of glamor in this tableside conversation with a TV star, Mrs. Hal Linker (center), and his hostess, Betts Yorty, First Lady of Los Angeles.

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Vera Lelean, employee of Disney Studio, displays the DAR Americanism Medal and certificate she received recently in recognition of her outstanding patriotic and community services since becoming a naturalized citizen in 1954.

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Vera Lelean, who works in the tea room of the Ink and Paint building at the Disney Studio, was recently honored by the Daughters of the American Revolution through the Hollywood chapter. The National Society DAR Americanism medal and certificate was awarded to her in recognition of her contributions to the city of Los Angeles. She is also the DAR's Naturalized Citizen of the Year for the state of California.

The medal is awarded to an adult, naturalized citizen of over five years, who has demonstrated outstanding ability following naturalization in trustworthiness, service, leadership and patriotism.

British born, Vera was naturalized in 1954. From her experiences in the bombings of England during World War II, she has given invaluable service to the civil defense efforts of Los Angeles. During the Korean conflict, she was a ground observer in the United States Air Corps and is the recipient of the USO ten-year award pin representing 2,000 hours of work.

This is just the second Americanism medal awarded through the Hollywood chapter since the award was established by the National Society of DAR in 1958.

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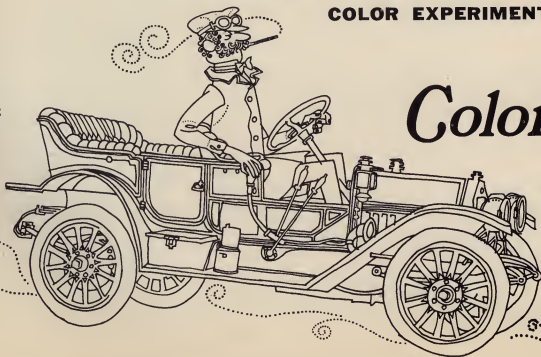
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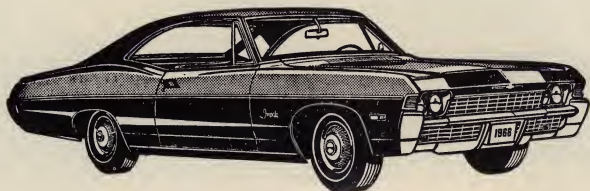
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